

## QUESTIONS FROM PFAS SENATE BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 28, 2019

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### SEPW Majority/Sen. Carper – DE

- Your Action plan includes a number of items listed as “in progress” or “almost complete” (TRI, SNUR, CERCLA designation, cleanup guidance). Can you tell us when to expect the next thing, and which thing is next? You’re specific about your MCL timing but not about the others, and many commitments seem very similar to what Administrator Pruitt said after the Summit. How are you closer on those things?
- When are the supplemental proposed SNUR and the TRI listing coming out? What about the CERCLA piece?
- You mentioned you plan to develop new PFAS toxicity values through the IRIS program. Are you going to turn these tox values into health advisories like PFOA or PFOS? If not, what are communities going to do with the toxicity values alone? How will that be helpful or meaningful? Why don’t you develop drinking-water numbers so communities know what amount is safe?
- Can you say more about the level at which the groundwater cleanup recommendations will be set?

### SEPW Majority/Sen. Barrasso - WY

- A couple weeks ago, *Nature* published an article that says there are 4,730 PFAS chemicals. How many of these are in commerce vs. legacy chemicals? How many are products of other PFAS breaking down?
- Of the 4,700 chemicals, how many can we identify in drinking water? The article made it seem like we can’t detect the majority of these chemicals and we’re just blindly searching for them.
- What does EPA need (data, methods, etc.) to be able to “upgrade” particular PFAS chemicals from “detectable only using non-targeted analysis” to “specifically detectable”?
- You said the groundwater cleanup recommendations are at OMB but should happen before other items in the plan. What timing are we looking at – a month or two? Weeks?
- When the groundwater cleanup recommendations come out, how will they impact cleanups? Will there be an expectation that DOD complies with them?

### Sen. Murkowski - AK

- Regarding the CERCLA hazardous-substance designation for PFOA and PFOS, have you identified a particular section under which you’ll do the designating, or are you still evaluating?

### Sen. Sinema - AZ

- CDC/ATSDR say that a lower level [than 70 ppt] may be harmful. What’s the source of the discrepancy? Do you disagree with these other assessments? Why wouldn’t EPA shoot for a lower MCL?
- Are MCLs enforceable values? Could EPA enforce against that value for cleanups, etc.?

### Sen. Markey - MA

- You mentioned the Significant New Use Rules you develop to restrict chemicals’ new uses. What is EPA doing now to review new chemicals entering the market? Are you doing anything special for PFAS compounds (vs. other types of new chemicals)?
- Of all the PFAS in commerce, how many have you identified in drinking water – hundreds? dozens? Are all PFAS found in drinking water, or just a subset?
- If states adopt a 70 ppt drinking water value, and then EPA sets a MCL lower than 70, would states then be required to go back in and further clean up sites they had previously cleaned to a 70 level?

### Sen. Duckworth - IL

- How did DOD react to EPA’s PFAS Action Plan?

### Sen. Stabenow - MI

- You mentioned EPA was involved in 8 or 9 PFAS enforcement cases. Can you clarify how many of them involve EPA engaging with DOD, vs. private parties?